

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****United States Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	R	ATTORNEY/DOCKETING
09/528,560	03/20/00	BRANDT		

QM12/1108

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 GRAHAM EXAMINER ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

11/08/00

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/528,560	BRANDT, RICHARD A.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Mark S. Graham	3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Filice in view of Muhlhausen.

Filice discloses the claimed device with the exception of the reversal of the male/female connector elements as pointed out previously. However, as disclosed by Mulhausen it is known in the art to reverse these elements. In view of Mulhausen such a reversal of parts would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan. See *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955). Applicant's arguments in this regard have been noted. However, in view of Mulhausen and the *Gazda* doctrine they are not considered persuasive.

Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim1 above, and further in view of Peng. As evidenced by Muhlhausen when reversing the male/female connectors of a bat barrel/handle connection it is known in the art to use a transverse locking member. As disclosed by Peng a locking member such as that claimed by the applicant are known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such a locking member on a reversed connection bat of the Filice design as well to secure fasten it together.

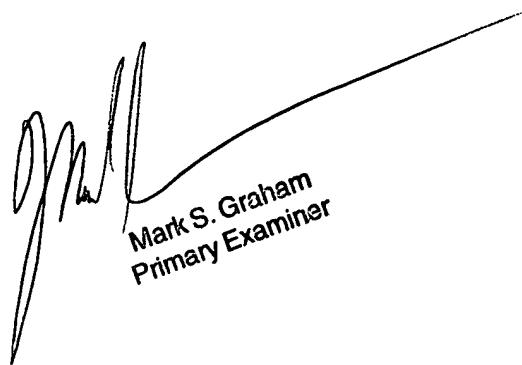
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Art Unit: 3711

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Mark S. Graham at telephone number 308-1355.

MSG
11/05/01



Mark S. Graham
Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark S. Graham", is written over a stylized, wavy line that starts with several sharp peaks on the left and tapers off to the right. Below the signature, the text "Primary Examiner" is written in a smaller, slanted font.